

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the office action mailed on September 10, 2002 and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 32 are amended, no claims are cancelled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-6 and 29-32 are now pending in the application. The amendment to claim 1 finds support, for example, in Figure 3B of the drawings and at page 8, lines 17-25 of the specification. The amendment to claim 32 corrects a typographical error and was not made in response to an art rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 32 is amended to correct a typographical error. The amendment corrects the dependency, so claim 32 is not indefinite. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 32.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumagai (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,043).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, "each of the no more than two transistors *directly* coupled to a voltage level (emphasis added)." In contrast, Kumagai teaches, as shown in Fig. 14, transistors 1 and 2 coupled through resistor R_{11} to voltage level V_{SS} . Hence, Kumagai fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, as amended. Thus, the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to claim 1. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Claims 2-6 and 29-32 are dependent on claim 1. For reasons analogous to those provided above and elements in the claims, applicant respectfully submits that the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to claims 2-6 and 29-32. Therefore,

applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6 and 29-32.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at 612-371-2109 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

November 12, 2002

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 12 day of November, 2002.

Name

DANNY PADYS

Signature

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